IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 Canceled

11. (currently amended) [The scraper of claim 1 further comprising] An earth working scraper comprising:

a scraper blade for scraping earth from a ground surface;

a receiving area located proximate the blade for receiving earth scraped from the ground surface by the blade;

a rotatable axle for providing movement of the scraper to allow the blade to scrape the earth, the axle connected with respect to the blade and receiving area; and

a track apparatus connected with respect to the rotatable axle, the track apparatus including:

a continuous flexible track having an upper length and a ground-engaging lower length and including an inner surface;

an axle wheel mountable to the rotatable axle for rotational movement therewith, the axle wheel engaging the inner surface of the flexible track along the upper length to drive the flexible track in response to rotation of the axle; and

a frame for mounting the axle wheel,

wherein the scraper has a first end adapted for attachment to a second scraper and a second end including the rotatable axle, the second scraper being independently powered or towed by a prime mover.

Claims 12-18 Canceled

19. (currently amended) [The scraper of claim 1 wherein the track apparatus further comprises:] An earth working scraper comprising:

a scraper blade for scraping earth from a ground surface;

a receiving area located proximate the blade for receiving earth scraped from the ground surface by the blade;

a rotatable axle for providing movement of the scraper to allow the blade to scrape the earth, the axle connected with respect to the blade and receiving area; and

a track apparatus connected with respect to the rotatable axle, the track apparatus including:

a continuous flexible track having an upper length and a ground-engaging lower length and including an inner surface;

an axle wheel mountable to the rotatable axle for rotational movement therewith, the axle wheel engaging the inner surface of the flexible track along the upper length to drive the flexible track in response to rotation of the axle;

a frame for mounting the axle wheel;

an idler assembly having an idler wheel engaging the track, the idler assembly being moveable with respect to the frame; and

a tensioning device for maintaining tension on the continuous flexible track, the tensioning device comprising:

a main-cylinder housing interconnected to one of the frame and the idler assembly, the housing extending along an axis and defining a main chamber therein;

a main piston having a first end operatively connected to the other of the frame and the idler assembly and a second end slidably received within the chamber, the piston movable between a retracted position and an extended position;

a primary dampening structure for resisting movement of the piston toward the retracted position for a first predetermined axial length; and

a secondary dampening structure for resisting movement of the piston toward the

retracted position for a further axial length beyond the first predetermined axial length, the secondary dampening structure resisting movement of the piston independent of the primary dampening structure.

20. (original) The scraper of claim 19 wherein the primary dampening structure includes:

a primary cylinder extending along an axis and defining a primary chamber therein; and

a primary piston slidably received in the primary cylinder and movable axially between a first and second position, the primary piston dividing the primary chamber into a first portion for receiving a pressurized gas and a second portion.

21. (original) The scraper of claim 20 wherein the secondary dampening structure includes:

a secondary cylinder extending along an axis and defining a secondary chamber therein; and

a secondary piston slidably received in the secondary cylinder and movable axially between a first and second position, the secondary piston dividing the secondary chamber into a first portion for receiving a pressurized gas and a second portion; whereby the conduit interconnects the main chamber and the second portion of the secondary chamber and wherein the hydraulic fluid is disposed within the second portion of the secondary chamber.

22. (original) The scraper of claim 21 wherein the pressure of the pressurized gas in the first portion of the secondary chamber is greater than the pressure of the pressurized gas in the first portion of the primary chamber.

23. (original) The scraper of claim 22 wherein the primary and secondary dampening structures operate to progressively increase resistance to movement of the idler wheel toward the deflected position as the idler wheel moves toward the deflected position.

24. (original) The scraper of claim 19 wherein the dampening structures are mounted at a position remote from the housing and piston.

Claims 25-33 Canceled

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The scraper of claim 33~~ An earth working scraper comprising:

a scraper blade for scraping earth from a ground surface;

a receiving area located proximate the blade for receiving earth scraped from the ground surface by the blade;

a rotatable axle for providing movement of the scraper to allow the blade to scrape the earth, the axle connected with respect to the blade and receiving area; and

a track apparatus connected with respect to the rotatable axle, the track apparatus including:

a continuous flexible track having an upper length and a ground-engaging lower length and including an inner surface, the flexible track including spaced lugs projecting from the inner surface, each lug terminating in a distal surface spaced inwardly from the inner surface;

an axle wheel mountable to the rotatable axle for rotational movement therewith, the axle wheel engaging the inner surface of the flexible track along the upper length to drive the flexible track in response to rotation of the axle, the axle wheel comprising:

a central hub portion mountable on the axle for rotational movement therewith;

a radially-extending portion terminating in a circumferential edge; and

a peripheral portion affixed to the circumferential edge and having outwardly-facing lug-engagement surfaces positioned for engagement with the distal surfaces of the track lugs; and

a frame for mounting the axle wheel,

wherein the outwardly-facing lug-engagement surfaces are substantially convex, and

wherein each lug-engagement surface extends in an axial direction parallel to the drive axis such that each lug-engagement surface is a portion of a cylinder.

Claim 35 Canceled

36. (previously presented) An earth scraper comprising:

a scraper blade for scraping earth from a ground surface;

a receptacle for receiving the earth scraped by the scraper blade;

an axle for carrying the scraper blade and receptacle;

a rotatable axle wheel connected to the axle and having a plurality of spaced-apart drive members along a circumferential edge thereof;

a track having lugs formed along an inner surface thereof, the lugs being configured for meshing engagement with the drive members of the wheel.

37. (previously presented) The earth scraper of claim 36 further comprising an idler wheel tensioned against the inner surface of the track.

38. (previously presented) The earth scraper of claim 37 further comprising a tensioning device for applying tensioning of the idler wheel against the inner surface of the track, the tensioning device including primary and secondary dampening chambers.

39. (previously presented) The earth scraper of claim 38 wherein the primary dampening chamber includes a limiter operative to limit a first range of dampening of the tensioning.

40. (previously presented) A method of earth scraping comprising:

providing a scraper blade for scraping earth from a ground surface;

providing a receptacle for receiving the earth scraped by the scraper blade;

providing an axle for carrying the scraper blade and receptacle;

providing a rotatable axle wheel connected to the axle and having a plurality of spaced-apart drive members along a circumferential edge thereof; and

providing a track having lugs formed along an inner surface thereof, the lugs being configured for meshing engagement with the drive members of the wheel.